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Universal Military Training

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BY

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UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

Now that all the so-called Christian Nations of Europe are engaged in war, the people of America are awakening to the necessity of some adequate military and naval equipment, not for aggression, but for protection against aggression, either from without or within.

The complete state of unpreparedness of our country from invasion by a foreign power and our almost complete lack of knowledge of military matters, particularly by the masses, is a matter of grave concern and of the deepest interest to all loyal Americans.

In view of this fact, I take the liberty of herewith submitting an idea which has been in my mind for nearly a quarter of a century and which was considered by no less an authority than the late President, Benjamin Harrison, in an article which appeared in the Century Magazine the latter part of 1891 or early in 1892.

Without discussing the conditions further, I submit the following:

That the United States government require every young man of, say eighteen years of age, to enter a special course of military instruction in training schools or other similar institutions, there to be given a thorough physical training and upbuilding military drill and such other instruction as shall be useful and proper for the making of a well drilled soldier for a Citizen Reserve, in case the nation needs him in foreign invasion or from domestic strife, such period of training to continue for four years of the usual school or college duration.

During this time the young men should be given a good education equivalent to that of our high schools or academies, and that they should be taught, in addition to the customary branches, American history and Economics, such other branches as appertain to a good military or naval education and that they be also taught love of country, loyalty to and reverence for the flag in all that it should represent to them and to the world at large.

During this period the young men could and in most cases would be able to choose callings or vocations best suited to their tastes and talents and at the close of this period, fit themselves

for professional, technical or business lives. Under this system they would retire far better educated and physically up-built and up-set men than from sixty to eighty per cent of our younger male population.

At the close of this period of training and education, the young men should be put on a Citizen Reserve, subject to call for a yearly service of from four to six weeks of camp life, for further instruction and review, such as is in vogue at the Students Military Instruction Camps recently established for summer work at Gettysburg, Ludington and California. At the age of forty they should be retired permanently and should be subject to call only in case of domestic strife or foreign invasion and should be classed like the body known as the Landwehr, in Germany.

By such a system all immigrants of school age could and would become more rapidly Americanized and be made better citizens than through a lifetime of contact with the masses. Many of them would be saved from the lives of criminals and derelicts where unfortunately many of our younger immigrants wind up, thus becoming charges of the state and nation and a menace to our civilization.

This proposition need not be confined to military training alone, but may be applied to naval instruction as well. It would give the nucleus of an army of Citizen Reserve of well trained and well educated young men from every class and sphere of life who would become loyal and law-abiding citizens. The discipline of such training and education would promote and produce respect for the authority of superiors in rank or office, making a class of clean-cut men of good habits and impulses. They would learn how to obey and without this they could never learn to command.

We have in this country a system of compulsory education or attendance at the common schools, then why can it not be extended to include this or a similar course of training and instruction? We are told that athletes make the best soldiers and it is generally conceded that soldiers usually make the best and most loyal men. Are there any more loyal citizens than those who served in the Civil War, no matter whether they wore the blue or the grey?

The proposition would, to my mind, be the best investment the United States could make for it would give the nation a Citizen Reserve of many millions within a few years, which would be made up of loyal, educated and trained men, who in

grateful return for their education and training, would rush gladly to the defense of their country.

There is little or no danger of building up a military aristocracy in this country for the young men would come from every station in life, from the farm and the shop, the country and the city, the children of the rich and the poor, and from every political and religious faith.

For years the military authorities of America have been preaching PREPAREDNESS. They have not asked for a large army or navy, but for the building up of a reserve force of Citizen Soldiery in which the individual would know enough of arms and field work to make it easy to get him in shape for the field or line. We are told that our small standing army is so scattered that it would not be possible to muster and dispatch a single brigade for any distance in a single day and that it would be weeks before we could get together half a hundred thousand for service at any one point. We are also told that our navy is short 18,000 men and that a further shortage of 40,000 is in sight. Now, with a coast line of nearly 6,000 miles and a distance of nearly 5,000 miles from coast to coast, by way of the Panama canal, and with an army which would be merely a plaything with any great military power, where would the United States be if suddenly called upon to defend herself against a foreign foe?

As to the situation now existing permit me to submit the opinions of authorities and experts:

Hon. A. P. Gardner, member of Congress for Massachusetts, says: "I have sat here like a coward in silence for a dozen years and listened while men told us that the United States can safely depend, in time of war, on the state militia and on the navy service. All the time I knew it was not so. The Spanish War was declared toward the end of April, there was a call for 125,000 volunteers at once and another for 75,000 in May. Did these volunteers mobilize equipped, with the rapidity of the wind? They did not! A good many of them have not mobilized yet." Again: "As you know, there are many men who believe that the reserve question is the most pressing of all and the idea of an adequate army and navy has a great following."

Hon. George E. Foss, Congressman-elect from Illinois, says: "I will be very glad to give the matter my serious consideration; as you know, I am for a strong army and navy."

Admiral George Dewey says:

"The time when the general public finds its serious attention turning, possibly for the first time in our history, to the great problems of national defense is certainly most opportune for the circulation of views which represent mature thought on the subject. In my judgment, those who assist in that work render a patriotic service of the highest merit."

Frederic William Wile, former Berlin correspondent of "The Daily Mail", London, England, the "New York Times" and "Chicago Tribune," in a speech before the "American Luncheon Club" of London, says:

"If we cannot fight today, in Heaven's name let us prepare for tomorrow. Let us, while there is still time, create an army worthy of the name. Let us build warships of the utmost capacity of our financial and manufacturing resources. Let us oust from office, as fast as oportunity offers, the party or parties that oppose naval or military legislation. Let us take the lesson from this war and banish to the realm of 'Never Again' the Utopian theory of Universal Brotherly Love and Disarmament. Let us realize, forevermore, in the light of the bloody history now making before our eyes, that the race is to the prepared and to the strong and to them only. For then, though it will not have been vouchsafed us to strike a blow for our friends in their hour of need, we shall have at least struck for ourselves and for all that is dear and precious to our posterity."

Other countries have systems of military training which we may well consider, two of which I will mention:

In Switzerland from the ages of 8 to 17 years, boys receive military instruction in the public schools and when they enter the "aufzug" they are prepared for actual training in arms. In the first year of service they spend from 67 to 92 days in camp maneuvers, depending on whether they belong to the infantry, cavalry, artillery or engineers. In subsequent years they serve 13 days. The total service for thirteen years is 141 days for infantry, 146 days for engineers, 160 days for cavalry and 163 days for artillery, making a total of less than six months for the period.

In Australia boys begin training at the age of 12 years. Junior cadets are from 12 to 14 years. Seniors cadets, 14 to 18 years of age, then come the National Guard of all able bodied men between 18 and 26 years of age. Seniors get 64 hours in

camp each year, the National Guard, 16 days training each year for six years. The law is expected to furnish by A. D. 1919, 100,000 seniors and 128,000 militia in training.

The above system appears to be along the lines of the Boy Scout movement, which is good as far as it goes, but we must prepare today for a contingency which may arise tomorrow. We propose to begin where the Boy Scout movement leaves off.

By the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, which we are informed originated with Abraham Lincoln, and which became a law by his signature, there were founded and endowed colleges for the education of the children of the masses, "In the Arts and Sciences of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts and not excluding other Scientific and Classical branches, and including MILITARY TACTICS." Resulting from this there has been established in nearly every state, a university or an agricultural and mechanical college where military science and tactics are taught to a greater or less degree of perfection, but unfortunately such studies are not obligatory on all able bodied students except in a few states. As near as we have been able to learn, the spirit as well as the letter of the law has been observed and maintained in the state of Illinois better than in the other states. Here all able bodied male students are required to take military instruction and drill three or four hours per week for the first two years of their college courses. The brigade of cadets here is one of the largest in the country, and includes beside the private soldiers, two military bands of 75 each, a light battery, drum and bugle corps, and signal corps. The brigade is made up of students from all classes and departments, the agricultural and mechanical, professional and engineering, the rich and the poor and are of every shade of political and religious faith.

The full line of student or cadet officers of the institution are from the very best material and are of the highest scholastic standing. At the close of the four years of service and instruction, they leave the university with as good an education, in a general way, as those from West Point or Annapolis and are competent in most cases to fill positions in the army or militia with credit to themselves and honor to the Government and their Alma Mater.*

Here then is the nucleus of a system of the kind of training and instruction above referred to and by the extension and elaboration of the system, each of these state institutions could

turn out in a few years, enough well trained young men to officer an army of a million of men and a Citizen Reserve of not less than ten millions of well trained men.

With such a reserve well equipped and kept in training and trim by encampment every year, this country would have an army for emergencies not to be lightly dealt with by any foe.

We regret to admit that there has been adverse criticism on the teaching of military science in the agricultural and other colleges. Officers are often lax in their instruction and dicipline and this is frequently due to the boards of trustees and faculties being opposed to such instruction. In view of the fact that the government has been not only liberal but quite philanthropic, it is to be regretted that these bodies show so much short-sightedness. The United States Government has generously provided that any college having 150 male students may have an instructor from the army or navy, but not to exceed 50 army officers and 10 navy officers may be appointed at any one time. Since the act of 1888 this number has been increased to 75 army officers and 10 navy officers.

There are now 102 schools in the United States teaching military science and yet the total number of students enrolled in these schools in 1913 was but 29,401 and but about 60 per cent of these were taking military drill, a small number, indeed, compared with what the government ought to expect or demand and infinitely too small for the needs of the country in its equipment and officering of its needful army.

Order No. 155 of the War Department provides that: "It shall be the duty of the Professor of Military Science and Tactics to **enforce Military dicipline** at all times when students are engaged in military instruction."

In regard to this proposition, we get the opinion of a French officer who knows the military side of the situation and his opinion is certainly worth paying some heed to. He says:

"Without Discipline, courage is nothing. Read the psychology of mob spirit. I don't mean howling, destructive mobs, I mean groups of people—and you will know that theoretically and in practice, a crowd is influenced by the lowest minds.

"Fear is the greatest thing in the world, it is the governing motive of every life,—fear of poverty, fear of exposure, fear of

consequences, fear of failure—there is no such actual quality as courage. It is fear conquered, under control, but without **discipline** men are going to revert to the primeval quality, **fear,** and do things which as gallant, honest gentlemen of civil life they would blush to think of."

Our worthy Secretary of State tells us that were the President to issue a call to arms, between sunrise and sunset, a million loyal men would rush to the defense of the colors. Suppose that is so, what are we to do with them? They would be simply a disorganized mob, possibly an intelligent and loyal mob, but a mob nevertheless. With what would this mob of a million men be armed?—with bottles of grape juice?—with unfermented patriotism?—we have not enough rifles or ammunition.

Wm. E. Stone of Indiana, says: "I think it is of the greatest importance that the students of colleges do have instruction in the knowledge and in the principles of Military Science. There is an excellent reason for that, and the graduates of any of these are particularly qualified for service to the country in times of war."

As to the effect of Scholastic Military Training, the **Adjutant General's** report of 1892 says: "Mental development is as important a part of the soldier's education as physical, and perhaps more so, and as much has been accomplished, and still more attempted, to make our army lead in this respect, as it does now in quality, pay, quarters and general comforts."

Major General Leonard Wood says: "We are trying to develop a sense of responsibility in the young men of the country, a sense of responsibility toward their military duty. We educate them to perform all sorts of civil duties. We do not want to make professional soldiers or jingoes, but we want to plant in our people a sensible and sane idea of PREPARATION, what it means and what its value is; its value not only as tending to improvement in fighting but its value as a matter of humanity, because if we are well prepared war will not be thrust upon us, and if it is thrust upon us we will be able to make it short and carry it through with a minimum loss because our officers and men know how to perform their duties effectively."

Col. H. O. S. Heistand, Department Adjutant U. S. Army, says: "The Army of the United States should be a UNIVERSITY for defense, in which men should serve until they are qualified soldiers. This country is good and every man who lives under its protection should fit himself to aid in its defense."

President Wilson and others say that the country does not want to be turned into a military camp; that is quite true, but there is no more danger of turning it into a military camp than there is of turning it into a great religious or athletic camp because certain people and churches hold yearly camp meetings or because other thousands frequent the baseball and football games to enjoy the sport and observe the skill of these well trained men. We hear that the President does believe in the necessity for "martial defense." Will he kindly explain just what he does mean and will he define his ideas of "Citizen Soldiery?"

We are all pacificists, none of us want war, neither do we want famine or fire, but the best way to avoid these calamities, is to fortify ourselves against them. How can we fortify ourselves better against war or invasion than cultivating a knowledge of the Art and Science of Military Defense, as we are now cultivating the Art and Science of Agriculture and Manufacture. By giving our young men training in the manly art of self defense of both body and country, by making them into well built, healthy, law abiding and liberty loving citizens, who will at the same time be respectors of order and authority as represented by those whom the people have chosen or appointed to administer the affairs of government, we will have accomplished much. We do not aim to make soldiers alone, but soldierly men, and at the same time to provide for defense in the future in case of the nation's need. Armies do not necessarily cause war but have prevented war, any one conversant with history knows, this: Hannibal's successes in the beginning of the Punic Wars were as much because of Rome's unpreparedness as because of Hannibal's great generalship.

In the light of civilization, as we see it in Europe today, it is the veriest nonsense to talk about disarmament and peace, peace being maintained depending solely on the goodness of men and nations, a sort of a Christian Science faith, a faith in the absent treatment, as it were. The human race is not so far advanced from the barbarism of the Dark Ages as we might believe or even hope, if any credence is to be placed in the reports we get from across the water, hence it is well for us to sit up and take notice.

These issues must be squarely met, there is no middle course. It would be just as logical to rely upon protection and defense without armament and preparation as to rely solely on the "Science of Health" to ward off the ravages of cholera and famine

and fires. We have gotten beyond the efficacy of the absent treatment method.

Washington charged the nation to prepare for War in times of Peace, but we would better prepare for Peace in times of War. It does not follow that we must have war because of being prepared; we could better avoid war by being prepared, history proves this. In every war this country has ever had it was never prepared. The War of the Revolution, that of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War found us unprepared in every particular. Wisdom counsels us to act while we yet have the time to be so prepared for war that we shall forever have peace even if we have to fight to maintain it.

Would a farmer refuse to fence in his land to protect his crops from foragers and thieves; would a householder decline to have locks and bolts on his doors to keep out burglars; would a sane man refuse to properly clothe himself against the winter's blasts? If so, then sensible people would surely say there is something lacking in the disregarding of Self-preservation, which is the first law of life.

Military training will not unfit a man for business or the professions, but will put him in better shape to battle with the world and life. A knowledge of order and discipline will not unfit any man. This is quite clearly proven in the case of Germany; during the past thirty years there has been more militarism than in generations before, yet in spite of this Germany has succeeded in business and in the professions more than any other country, during the same period. Germany's population has doubled, her wealth has doubled, she has made greater advancement in science and in material welfare than any other land across the water, and in the face of this great military preparedness, Germany has not had a war in the past forty years. Germany is not fighting because of being prepared, but because the other nations were evidently unprepared.

The writer has visited many foreign lands, he has seen the soldiery of most of them and has a personal acquaintance with many. He has some knowledge of the armies of Germany, France, England, Greece, Turkey, Russia and also of Canada and Mexico, and knows something of their personnel and fitness. No finer bodies of men can be found than in most of these European armies. They are well up-set, well drilled, healthy

and manly fellows in their bearing on parade or in private life. Many of them when they entered the army were not robust, but were hollow chested, stoop shouldered, and in many ways under the average physical standard, but within one year after military service began, they developed into strong up-set athletes and soldiers as hardy as mountaineers or as the American Cowboy.

America has been the sanctuary of the oppressed as she was from the first when the fathers sailed away from their home countries to create a new nation, in a new land far away from the Monarchies of the Old World, and all over the world the oppressed are turning their wistful eyes to us and are stretching out torn and bleeding hands, beseeching us for sympathy and succor. Something beside weak and sloppy Peace Talk is expected of us and we will fail in our God-given privileges if we do not show ourselves earnest, forceful and strong.

Moral virility is what gave America its lustre in its classic days of old; let us, therefore, not dim this lustre by substituting indecision, careless confidence and foolhardy unpreparedness for this virility. We are here to fulfill a plain duty, the duty of taking thought for tomorrow. People of the Monarchies need not think for themselves, they have their thinking done for them, but people of a great democracy must think and act for themselves if they would perpetuate the heritage left by the Fathers.

This, my countrymen, is my argument as counsel for The Defense.

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*NOTE.—Under the efficient management of Major Frank D. Webster, 20th Infantry, U. S. Army, Professor of Military Science and Commandant of the University of Illinois Brigade of Cadets, there has been built up an organization which is attracting the notice of the military departments of other universities and colleges throughout the country. There were registered this year—1914-15—3,000 able bodied male students, subject to military service and training. There is a brigade of 5 regiments, three military bands, aggregating 165 members, a drum and bugle corps, a signal corps and a light battery. These students receive the best instruction possible to be given them, with the equipment the United States government provides. The Rifle Club began service in class "C" and through their excellent marksmanship, won over all competitors the past year and were raised to class "A". The University of Illinois sent a larger body of students to the summer military camp at Ludington, Mich., than any other similar institution in the country.

It is to be regretted that the United States and the State governments do not furnish these state institutions with as complete equipment as is furnished at West Point and Annapolis, for under these circumstances, these institutions could turn out each year a body of young men as well educated and as well trained as are turned out of these government schools. Under those circumstances we would have a body of men each year capable of imparting valuable knowledge to the masses who should be taught to be soldierly men, capable of self protection, and capable of serving their country in times of need, not as mobs, but as well trained and effective soldiers or sailors.

The Outlook says: "To prepare to protect ourselves from the ignorance, the self-interest, and the injustice of others is in no way to lose sight of the demands of that ideal knowledge, world democracy, and international justice to which we, as a people, have dedicated the United States. * * No man and no woman seeks a helpmate who is so weak as to be incapable of injustice and tyranny. The ideal husband is not found in the man too feeble to beat his wife; he is found in the man whose self-control, whose sense of responsibility, whose devotion, makes such an action unthinkable."

The Outlook further says: "The first duty of a government is to protect the persons and property of its citizens. If it is not equipped for rendering this service it does not deserve to be called a government. * * * If it fails to furnish necessary protection because it is not as strong as its assailant, we do not blame it—we pity it. If it fails to furnish necessary protection because of its cowardice or carelessness, we do not pity it—we blame it. * * * Democracy is self-governing; democracy must also be self protecting. * * * A dis-

organized body of men armed for battle but not under constituted authority, is a mob. An organized and co-operating body of men armed for battle, under constituted authority, is an army. * * * They must know how to combine and co-operate under constituted authority, and must be trained in habits of prompt obedience that they may work together under one head. * * * A mob is no protection to a people."

Secretary of War Garrison says: "We must get a reserve of trained men in the states, a reserve of army officers to command the men."

Ex-President Roosevelt says: "Nations that are prepared for war occasionally suffer from it, but if they are unprepared for it they suffer far more often and far more radically."

There are many others who evidently think as we do in relation to building up a national reserve. **Dr. G. Frank Lydston,** who has served in the National Guard of Illinois and also in the Volunteer Army during the Spanish war, says as follows, in the current number of the Press Club Scoop:

"This is how to build up a reserve.

"1. Institute military training in all schools, beginning with the primary grades and in all penal institutions.

"2. Have short term enlistments in the regular army.

"3. Encourage the formation of rifle clubs and private military organizations under governmental supervision and support.

"4. Pay the National Guardsman for his service.

"5. Institute training camps for National Guardsmen in which actual war conditions are closely imitated.

"And I would suggest first, the establishment of military posts, governed entirely by the utility in giving military training to the National Guard. As matters now stand, the military post is of little use in this respect. The regular army and the National Guard should be welded together in some way."

This preparation for National Defense is a national matter, and not a state matter. As the whole is greater than any part, so the nation is greater than any state. An army or even a "Citizen Reserve" should be under the guidance and control of the Government at Washington, and the government subject to the advice and guidance of competent experts from the Army and Navy departments.—C. B. G.

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